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IPHONE MAKER FOXCONN MAY PUMP $1 BN INTO TN PLANT

The company is under strong pressure from Apple to slowly shift production of IPhones out of China, Reuters reported

ABOUT 6,000 NEW JOBS OVER THREE YEARS

A total of $1 billion will be invested over three years in the Sriperumbudur plant, sources told the news agency. This will create about 6,000 jobs. Foxconn currently makes IPhone XR in Chennai. Once expanded, the facility would produce other models as well. This will let Apple avoid import dues and make its products more competitive in the Indian market

BIG BOOST FOR MAKE IN INDIA

- Apple can also utilise India's cheaper labour force, and with the gradual expansion of its supplier base here, it could use the country as a significant export hub, the report noted
- The big-ticket investment would be a major boost for PM Modi's Make in India campaign, and would hit China where it hurts | P10

Apple
ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 1% OF TOTAL SMARTPHONE SALES IN INDIA

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B'luru back indoors for a week from Tuesday, govt locks down 2 districts

Will be more strict, says minister; Huge surge in Covid-19 cases prompts decision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CONCERNED over the rising number of Covid-19 cases and deaths over the last few days, the State Government on Saturday announced a complete lockdown in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts for a week starting 8 pm on July 14 till 5 am on July 22. On Saturday, Karnataka reported 2,798 new cases and 70 deaths with Bengaluru alone accounting for 1,533 new cases, taking the city's tally to 16,868 cases and 229 deaths.

"The lockdown will be enforced more strictly than earlier, when restrictions were imposed across the state, while the government will also change its strategy from zonal-level to local-level monitoring. We had only zonal-level monitoring and surveillance and now should handle this at the booth level," Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar told *The New Sunday Express*. "Let us start with one week's lockdown and see how it helps, we can review it after that," he added.

The decision to impose the lockdown in the two districts was taken based on recommendations from experts, stated a communication issued by the Chief Minister's Office on Saturday evening. During the lockdown, all essential services will be available and Medical and Post Graduation exams will be conducted as per schedule. Hospitals, grocery shops, vegetables, fruits and other daily essential commodities will be available during the lockdown. The government will announce detailed guidelines on Monday. P3

With parts of the city sealed down and the government announcing another lockdown, a woman cautiously steps out of a godown at Timber Yard on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

Detailed guidelines on Monday, says CM

"Considering the suggestions from experts to curb the increasing number of Covid cases, the govt has decided to implement a complete lockdown in Bengaluru Urban and Rural Districts for seven days starting 8 pm on Tuesday, July 14. Detailed guidelines will be released on Monday," CM B S Yediyurappa said.

WHAT'S ON, WHAT'S NOT

Essential services will be available

Hospitals, pharmacies, grocery, fruits, vegetable shops to be open

Medical and Post-graduate exams will be conducted as scheduled

Public transport, including app-based services and autos will not be available

All non-essential services to be shut

COVID-19 IMPACT

Bad loan mess may get messier, warns RBI guv

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

RESERVE Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday warned that the economic fallout due to the coronavirus pandemic may worsen the bad loan situation in the country and urged banks to guard against capital erosion.

"The economic impact of the pandemic — due to lockdown and anticipated post-lockdown compression in economic growth — may result in higher non-performing assets and capital erosion of banks," Das said. He was addressing the seventh SBI Banking and Economics Conclave through a video call.

Calling the pandemic "the biggest test of robustness and resilience of our economic and financial system, Das said the outlook for economic recovery still remains uncertain and will depend on how the pandemic unfolds.

"The Indian economy has started showing signs of getting back to normalcy in response to the staggered easing of restrictions," he said, adding it is still uncertain when supply chains will be restored fully. Also, it is not clear how long will it take for demand conditions to normalise, he noted.

In this context, he called for a recapitalisation plan for public sector banks as well as private banks.

Das said the banking regulator has already directed all lenders and non-banking financial firms to take stock of critical processes, revisit their business continuity plans and conduct stress test on their balance sheets to evaluate the risk posed by the pandemic.

The RBI governor also warned of the adverse impact of stress on banks over housing finance companies and mutual funds. "While the NBFC sector, as a whole, may still look resilient, the redemption pressure on NBFCs and mutual funds needs close monitoring, " he said.

Das also called for a legislative backing for a 'resolution corporation' to deal with the financial sector stress.

"Traditionally the approach has been to merge a field bank with a larger bank. While that definitely protects the depositors' interest, it also tends to pull down the balance sheet of the larger bank to which the failed bank is merged," Das argued. P10

We need legislative backing to have a resolution corporation which has to deal with resolution and revival of stressed financial firms — RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

NIA picks up prime accused in Kerala gold smuggling case from Bengaluru

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday evening detained **Swapna Suresh** and Sandeep Nair, the key suspects in the Kerala gold smuggling case, from a hotel in Koramangala in Bengaluru, top sources told *TNSE*.

Swapna's minor daughter and another minor, who had accompanied the suspects, were also reportedly present at the time of the duo's detention. "Swapna and Sandeep are being questioned by the NIA in Bengaluru and they will be arrested in due course. After arrest, they will be taken to Kerala and produced before the special court there," said an officer.

According to highly placed sources, Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair had reportedly travelled to Bengaluru in a private car along with her husband Jagmohan, their minor daughter and another minor child.

A former woman employee of the UAE consulate, Swapna is a key suspect in the gold smuggling bid through diplomatic baggage and was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. "She has reportedly honey-trapped many big wigs in Kerala — from bureaucrats to politicians," said the source.

The counsel for NIA and the Centre had told the Kerala High Court that Swapna had criminal antecedents and was 'involved' in arranging diplomatic papers for smuggling of over 30 kg of gold which was seized by the Customs early this week in Thiruvananthpuram. MORE:P5

EXPRESS READ

Bachchan and Jr test Covid +ve

Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan and his son, actor Abhishek, have tested positive for Covid-19. Both have now been admitted to Nanavati hospital. Meanwhile, actress Rehka's residence has been sealed after one of her security guards contracted the virus.

Biocon's drug can now be used on moderate, severe Covid patients

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Drugs Controller General of India has approved the use of Biocon Ltd's Itolizumab (ALZUMAb) injection (25mg/5mL solution) for emergency for treatment of Covid-19. The drug can be used in treatment of cytokine release syndrome (CRS) in moderate to severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) patients due to Covid-19.

Itolizumab is the first novel biologic therapy to be approved in the world for treating patients with moderate to severe Covid-19 complications. Biologic therapy involves using living organisms or substances derived from living organisms, or laboratory-produced versions of such substances to treat disease.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus — which causes Covid-19 — has been observed to induce an overreaction of the immune system, generating a large number of cytokines (immune system cells-secreted protein that regulate immunity inflammation, and blood cells production) that can cause severe damage to lungs and other organs, and, in the worst scenario, multi-organ failure and even death. Itolizumab drug has been found to be useful to treat this condition.

The DCGI's approval for Itolizumab's use is based on results from the successful conclusion of a randomised, controlled clinical trial at multiple hospitals in Mumbai and New Delhi.

The study focussed on the safety and efficacy of Itolizumab in preventing CRS in moderate to severe ARDS patients due to Covid-19. The primary endpoints for reduction in mortality rate were met and other key secondary endpoints for efficacy and biomarkers were also achieved, a Biocon release said.

Biocon has repurposed Itolizumab, an anti-CD6 IgG1 monoclonal antibody, launched in India in 2013 as ALZUMAb for treating chronic plaque psoriasis, for the treatment of CRS in moderate to severe ARDS patients due to Covid-19. Itolizumab will be manufactured and formulated as an intravenous injection at Biocon's bio-manufacturing facility at Biocon Park, Bengaluru. But the price of the drug is not yet fixed. P5

Centre: Don't rush with experimental therapies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Centre has asked the states and medical colleges across the country to focus on providing standard care for Covid-19 patients and advised against the indiscriminate use of investigational therapies.

The advisory comes amid reports of a mad rush to use experimental drugs such as remdesivir and tocilizumab to treat Covid-19 cases.

"These can be used in specific sub-groups of patients on the basis of informed and shared decision-making with the patient before prescribing these drugs..their indiscriminate use or use in conditions for which they are not desirable, may cause more harm than good," the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said in a statement.

Experts from ICMR and AIIMS, Delhi on Friday underlined that for moderate and severe cases, adequate oxygen support, appropriate and timely administration of blood thinners and the use of widely available and inexpensive corticosteroids should be considered the mainstay of Covid-19 treatment. P7

KERALA HC SHOWS THE WAY

Kerala High Court on March 24 became the first in the country to hold hearings via video conferencing in light of Covid-19. Twenty-one benches have disposed of 7,521 cases so far. Telangana High Court too has performed well, hearing more than 9,000 cases and passing as many as 1,401 judgments through video conferencing.

Top court bears brunt of lockdown; relief expected

KANU SARDA @New Delhi

FROM July 13, the Supreme Court will start hearing miscellaneous as well as regular matters, bringing some respite to lawyers as well as litigants. This comes at a time when courts across the country seem to have been crippled by the Covid-19 lockdown.

The judiciary, already reeling under huge pendency of cases, has found 'virtual hearings' have not brought much relief as these are meant only for urgent matters. For regular cases, both lawyers and litigants are facing a tough time.

In normal circumstances, the top court takes a two-month vacation every summer. This year, it has slashed the vacation time to just two weeks but it hasn't helped matters.

The main reason for hearing less number of cases during lockdown is non-availability of infrastructure for virtual hearings. In the Supreme Court and high courts, special arrangements were made only after the pandemic spread. Beginning from e-filing to virtual court hearings, all was done during this period. Several glitches crop up every day, at times frustrating lawyers and judges.

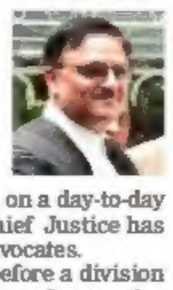
The Supreme Court had suspended the entry of lawyers and litigants to the court premises a day before the lockdown began in March. Later, a judicial direction was given, asking high courts to operate similarly. The high courts, too, issued orders to the subordinate judiciary to hear cases through video-conferencing. Since March 23, a total of 618 benches have heard 6,994 cases, in addition to 150 matters that were heard by the Registrar.

During this period, the Supreme Court delivered 672 judgments in 134 main and 538 connected matters.

CJ: Sorting tons of emails, running courts with pains

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Justice **Abhay Shreeniwas Oka** is spending six hours a day sorting emails from advocates requesting urgent hearings, in addition to holding regular video conference sittings — which start at 10.30am and can go up to 5.30pm — five days a week.



Due to the Standard Operating Procedure in place for keeping courts functional during the pandemic, the Chief Justice has been receiving emails from advocate across the state requesting urgent hearings. The Chief Justice uses his discretion to slot hearings for urgent cases at the Principal Bench in Bengaluru, and benches in Dharwad and Kalaburagi, on a day-to-day basis. Things have gotten so bad, that the Chief Justice has threatened to impose cost on inconsiderate advocates.

On July 8, an advocate was told to appear before a division bench, headed by Chief Justice Oka via video conference, before the court began hearing listed matters for the day, and got a mild reprimand. P5

WITH THIS ISSUE
READING MINDS
PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

A DIFFERENT TAKE

WFH is different for this techie, she sells veggies to help mom

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

WHEN most software engineers have opted for 'Work from Home', a 25-year-old techie is working for her home by selling vegetables to help her ailing mother. Her workplace has changed drastically from online to offline and from AC rooms to the roadside. But the fiercely proud techie says no job is big or small.

Anukumari, a graduate in Computer Science Engineering who was working in a software firm till February, returned to Mandya to take care of her mother. After a few days, she was to go back to Bengaluru to look for a job again. But then due to the Covid-19 outbreak, there was lockdown and the IT market was also down.

Her father Veerender Singh runs a small panipuri shop and her mother used to sell vegetables on the roadside. Her sister is studying.

Anu who was trying to make her career in software engineering did not even think twice to take up her mother's work as her doctor advised the former complete rest.

Every day, Anu and her father get up at 3.30am and go to Mandya Market to buy vegetables in wholesale. They return home only by 5.30 am. At 7am, Anu spreads the vegetables on the roadside in Chamundeshwarinagar and starts selling them.

"My father and my sister take care of the house while I sell vegetables. No job is big or small—I believe in dignity of labour," says this gritty woman.

Anu sells vegetables till 8 pm and goes back home after that. "On an average, we make some Rs 1,000 profit which we spend on mother's treatment. We have to take her to Mysuru hospital," she says. She takes the change in her work routine quite stoically. P5